

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 PA-02  
SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 IO-14 EB-08 NRC-07 OES-07  
SOE-02 DOE-15 CEQ-01 MCE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDE-00  
/119 W

-----043761 071900Z /43

O R 071835Z APR 78 ZFF 4

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7448

SECDEF WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USNATO

USNMR SHAPE

CINC EUR VAHINGEN

CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06374

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, MNUC, PARM, GW, US

SUBJECT: FRG PRESS SPOKESMAN ISSUES STATEMENT ON  
PRESIDENTIAL DECISION RE NEUTRON WEAPON (ER/RW)

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REFERENCE: BONN 6153 DTG 051713Z APR 78

1. IN RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENTIAL DECISION ON THE  
NEUTRON WEAPON, ANNOUNCED TODAY, GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN  
BOELLING ISSUED A STATEMENT AT 1800 LOCAL TIME. AN  
INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN TEXT

1) IN CONNECTION WITH THE DECISION OF PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER TO DEFER PRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON, CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT, TOGETHER WITH VICE CHANCELLOR (AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER) HANS-DIETRICH GENSCHER AND DEFENSE MINISTER HANS APEL, WILL BRIEF THE MEMBERS OF THE BUNDESTAG FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE COMMITTEES IN A JOINT SESSION TO BE HELD NEXT WEEK.

2) THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REAFFIRMS ITS POSITION, WHICH IT HAS CONSISTENTLY AND REPEATEDLY HELD IN AGREEMENT WITH THE USA: THE DECISION TO PRODUCE A NUCLEAR WEAPON IS SOLELY A SOVEREIGN DECISION OF THE CONCERNED NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATE, IN THIS CASE OF THE USA.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS WELCOMED THE CHANCE FOR CONSULTATION OF THE ALLIANCE, WHICH OCCURRED THIS AFTERNOON, IN WHICH THE CONSEQUENCE/OF THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION ON THE NEUTRON WEAPON WERE DISCUSSED.

3) THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TAKES NOTE OF THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO POSTPONE THE DECISION ON PRODUCING THE NEUTRON WEAPON, AND TO MAKE THE FINAL DECISION IN LIGHT OF BEHAVIOR BY THE SOVIET UNION AND THE DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS AND ARMS-CONTROL POSSIBILITIES  
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WHICH THAT BEHAVIOR POSES FOR THE ALLIANCE. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT UNDERSCORES THE PRESIDENT'S OBSERVATION WITH RESPECT TO THE IMPORTANCE OF SOVIET CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAMS AND FORCE DEPLOYMENTS WHICH AFFECT THE SECURITY OF NORTH AMERICA AND WESTERN EUROPE.

4) THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHARES THE CONVICTION OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT THAT THE WEST MUST CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN ITS TECHNOLOGICAL OPTIONS AND UTILIZE THEM OPTIMALLY IN ORDER TO OFFSET EXISTING DISPARITIES.

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7449  
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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
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CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG  
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

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5) THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO PLACE GREAT  
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IMPORTANCE ON USE OF THE ARMS-CONTROLS POSSIBILITIES OF  
THE NEUTRON WEAPON, IN ORDER TO REMOVE DISPARITIES IN  
THE FORCE RELATIONSHIP, ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELDS OF  
MIDDLE-RANGE SYSTEMS (MITTELSTRECKENPOTENTIALEN) AND  
OF TANKS. THEREFORE, THE PLANNED ALLIANCE CONSULTATIONS  
ON THIS ARMS-CONTROL USE (OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON) HAVE  
SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT;  
THEREFORE, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO  
PARTICIPATE INTENSIVELY IN THESE CONSULTATIONS.

6) THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT  
TO ALLIANCE DISCUSSIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE DETERMINED  
BY ITS VITAL INTERESTS AND ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR A  
SECURE DEFENSE AND A SECURE PEACE, AS WAS EXPRESSED IN  
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 23. IN  
THE CONSULTATIONS OF THE ALLIES, THE POINTS OF ORIEN-  
TATION ARE THE SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OF THE ALLIANCE  
AND THE GREAT SIGNIFICANCE WHICH THE ALLIANCE ATTRIBUTES  
TO PROGRESS IN DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL.

7) WE WELCOME AND SHARE THE DETERMINATION OF  
THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO MODERNIZE THE WEAPONS SYSTEMS  
OF THE ALLIANCE AND TO STRENGTHEN THE MUTUAL FORWARD  
DEFENSE. END TEXT.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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